Britain Uses Jews as Puppets as Arabs Struggle for Independence

By THEODORE REPARD

Bankrupt in its promises and stripped of every pretention, the Zionist leaders in America have been forced again to resort to a violent and demonstrably false anti-Communist campaign in an effort to save face before the masses of Jewish people.

In the vanguard of the latest Zionist crusade are the Jewish Daily Forward, organ of the notorious "Old Guard" of the Socialist Party, and the Jewish Day, mouthpiece of the professional Zionists.

Both papers burst forth on Saturday with a "proclamation" or leaflet allegedly distributed by the Palestinian Communist Party. The Forward featured the leaflet under its main eight-column streamer reading: "Communists Call Arabs To Pogroms In Palestine." The Day ran the story under the headline: "Communists Renew Incitements Against Jews In Palestine." The cable, as printed in both papers reads:

"TEL AVIV, April 24. — The Palestine Communist Party in Tel Aviv has distributed two proclamations in which they demand 'an end to the bloody Zionist attacks against the Arabs. They assert that 'the Jewish Defense Corps is carrying through They assert that 'the Jewish De- The proclamations close with a call to the Jewish youth 'to struggle together with the Arabian youth for the overthrow of the imperialist government and against Zionist attacks,' and with the demand 'to stop Jewish immigration.' The whole declaration is in the spirit of their declarations after the events of 1929. We send you copies of their proclamations by air-mail."

Leaders Support British

On the basis of this cable, both the Forward and the Day charge the Communists with calling for pogroms against the Jews, and encouraging banditry, firing of homes and outright murder.

In these articles on Zionism and the significance of the present situation in Palestine we will prove:

1. That the Zionist leaders are the main conscious supporters of British imperialist rule in Palestine, objectively the bulwark against the national-revolutionary struggles of the Arabian people;

2. That the Zionist leadership deliberately and consciously aggravates every Arab-Jewish friction in Palestine, thus making possible clashes between Arabs and Jews.

Anybody reading the leaflet allegedly distributed by the Palestinian Communists must recognize that far from calling for pogroms against the Jews, the Communists called for struggle by both Arab and Jewish youth against British imperialist rule and their Zionist agents.

The Revisionists

The Forward and the Day accuse the Palestinian Communists of charging the Jews with provoking the present situation. Both conveniently omit the fact that the important Revisionist section of the Zionist movement—soon to be officially welcomed back in the fold as a returning prodigal—is dedicated to precisely this: armed attacks against the Arabian masses. Both conveniently forget that the day-by-day policies of Zionism in Palestine are pursued with the express purpose of widening the distance between Arab and Jewish workers in Palestine.

The smallest friction in Palestine can spread and become a vast political issue because of the fundamental and deep-rooted antagonism between the Arabian masses on the one hand and British imperialism and the Zionists on the other. The present situation cannot be understood without examining and understanding these fundamental causes. This is our task.

An Arab Land

Palestine is a small country of about 10,000 square miles, partly arid and sparsely settled; the rest well-populated. For 1,300 years Palestine has been almost exclusively an Arab land. It must be remembered that Palestine itself is but a small part of the Arabian world. The Arab countries have more than 60,000,000 people. Palestine has a population of only about 1,350,000—including 350,000 Jews.

Until the end of the World War, the chief enemy of Arabian independence was the old Turkish Empire. For 200 years, the Turks ruled over the Arabs. The war shattered the Turkish Empire and brought into being an Arabian national movement.

The British imperialists started it, strange to say. In order to defeat the Turks, who sided with the Central Powers, a clever and highly talented young British officer, T. E. Lawrence (the famous "Lawrence of Arabia"), conceived the idea that British imperialism could hinder the Turkish advance by fostering an Arabian nationalist movement, a national-revolutionary movement against the Turks. Britain had to depend upon the Arabs to fight the Turks and this was one way of getting the Arabs to take up the struggle. It was a daring plan on Lawrence's part but it worked.

Promised Independence

British imperialism promised the Arabs independence after the war in return for their struggle against the Turks but when the war came to an end, the Arabs were left holding the bag. The Allies divided the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf into five mandated territories under French and British control. France got Syria and Britain got Palestine. The Arabs had been betrayed.

British imperialism is wise, crafty and utterly ruthless in its colonial (that is, imperialist) policy. The Arabs were hard to hold in leash. Furthermore, even during the war while the British were still fighting the Turks, they had been anxious to gain wider and more active support from influential Jewish circles. The two needs fitted together nicely. By encouraging the immigration of Jews into Palestine as a favored group, the British plotted to keep the Arabs in subjection using the Jews as their puppets.

The so-called legal case of the Zionists to Palestine rests on the notorious Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917. This declaration is only one sentence but that one sentence is a masterpiece of typical imperialist fraud and hypocrisy. In a letter to Lord Rothschild, a Zionist leader, Balfour wrote that the British government **"views with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people,"** but that in trying to achieve this end **"nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine."**

At this time, the Arab population in Palestine outnumbered the Jews by more than ten to one. Nevertheless, Balfour refers to it as **"the exisiting non-Jewish population."** Neither did Balfour make clear how there could possibly be establish a Jewish state in Palestine without the civil rights of the Arabs failing to be "prejudiced." The most important of the civil rights of the Arabs is to self-determination, to national independence. That is why they fought on the side of the British during the World War.

Naval, Air Bases

As Vincent Sheean has stated concerning the Balfour Declaration: **"I was to learn in Palestine that it had actually given the Jews little, had reserved little for the Arabs, and had achieved one certain purpose only: the installation of the British as the governing power in the country."**

Today more than ever before is Palestine most precious to the British imperialists. Palestine has become their chief naval and airplane station in the Near East and in the Mediterranean. Since the decline of Malta, Palestine has become the strategic military center of the British guarding the route to India. The British have literally poured untold millions of dollars into the recently completed Baghdad-to-Haifa oil pipe line, opened on January 22, 1935. Palestine has thus become the distributing center of Britain's rich oil fields in the Near East.

No wonder the British will not let go of Palestine and no wonder they need the Jews to help them keep their booty. Britain's imperialist mouthpiece, Augur, expressed it as follows in a dispatch to the New York Times on January 19, 1936:

"Britain governs the country and the Jewish population represents an element which can supply a guarantee of safety for the establishment of the air force. IN THE SEA OF THE NATIVE POPULATION OF ARABIA, THE PALESTINIAN JEWS STAND ISOLATED, AN OUTPOST OF EUROPE. AND, IF RIGHTLY HANDLED, AN ELEMENT OF STRENGTH FOR THE EMPIRE."

And Lord Tweedsmuir, British Governor General of Canada, recently stated:

"To have a strong, contented Palestine will be, in the future, of incalculable value to the British Empire. From this point of view, Zionism has never been more important than at this moment to Great Britain."

At this moment! At this moment when Egypt is seething with revolt, Syria seething with revolt, Algeria seething with revolt!

Where does Zionism stand between the Arabian national-revolutionary movement and the imperialist interests and oppressive rule of Great Britain?

(The final article in this series will be published in the Daily Worker tomorrow.)